

ER 5-0382

**SECRET**

DEC 24 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS)

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3020  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

VIA: Chief of Operations

DATE 2007

SUBJECT: Status of Former King Zog of Albania

REFERENCE: Memorandum of 3 December same subject

1. Since the transmittal of reference memorandum the position of former King Zog of Albania has continued to deteriorate, and a message received from the former monarch on 22 December [ ] 199, IN-44043) indicates that he has been ordered to appear for trial on the fourth of January, 1954. Apparently he will be charged with tax evasion and with evasion of customs duties at the time of his entry into Egypt in 1946.

2. As further stated in reference memorandum, King Zog has been our main source of relatively high-level Albanian agents for infiltration into Albania. His public trial and conviction, which seems probable unless further action is taken by this Agency to dissuade the Egyptian Government, would seriously reduce Zog's prestige as an anti-Communist leader and strengthen the propaganda of the Albanian Communist regime and other Communist countries. It would also probably reduce Zog's usefulness to us as a source of agent material even were he allowed to retain his personal liberty.

3. As indicated in reference memorandum, the Egyptian Government proposed that the U.S. undertake certain transactions of financial nature which, according to the government spokesman, would liquidate part of Zog's alleged liabilities. Ambassador Caffery's several interventions bore no fruit other than the foregoing proposal, and upon examination, the proposed financial transaction did not seem to warrant Agency involvement for the reason that its consummation would not necessarily result in extricating Zog from other entanglements with the Egyptian Government. It is believed that Ambassador Caffery and the Department of State as well are reluctant to commit further the reportedly waning prestige of the U.S. at a time when larger issues are at stake in the Middle East.

4. At the suggestion of [ ] SE Division and NEA Division prepared certain materials covering the Egyptian mistreatment of Zog with the intention of exploitation in domestic press organs. With the concurrence of DC/PP the materials were turned over to PY Division for exploitation through their domestic press contacts. This was done in accordance with the field's belief that Egyptian sensitivity to the American press would prove a deterrent to further persecution of Zog. Unfortunately, the attempts at domestic exploitation of the pro-Zog material appear to have failed.

5. In response

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5. In response to a summary of available alternatives (NECA-1175) received from the [redacted] NEA Division has agreed to a high-level liaison approach to Vice Premier Nasr in the hope of dissuading the Egyptian Government from further public humiliation of the former monarch. [redacted] is being requested to point out to Nasr, in the name of DCI, the potential damage to the Free World were Zog to be further discredited by consummation of the Egyptian proceedings. The merits of the case against Zog are not to be argued, nor is our clandestine relationship with Zog to be revealed; the mutual nature of the U.S. and Egyptian interest however, in denying further grist to the worldwide Communist propaganda mill is to be stressed.

6. The foregoing presentation is to be made in such a way as not to commit the prestige of DCI to the release of Zog, and to indicate that U.S. interest is not in Zog the man but in Zog the symbol of resistance to Communist domination of Albania.

7. The cable text is attached hereto.

[redacted] C [redacted] J  
Chief, SE

Attachment.

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